

# WHAT ABOUT THE SHEEP

## STUDY GUIDE

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Bible reading - Luke 2:8-20

### Observation questions

1. In Luke 2:8-9, what were the shepherds doing when heaven interrupted them, and how does the text describe their first reaction?
2. What exact “sign” did the angels give, and what did the shepherds actually find when they arrived in Bethlehem (Luke 2:12, 16)?
3. After seeing Jesus, what two things did the shepherds do before and after returning to their fields (Luke 2:17, 20)?
4. “What about the sheep?” If the shepherds left their flocks, what practical risks would that have posed to their livelihood, security, and identity? ([09:34])

### Interpretation questions

1. If encountering God can feel terrifying because it disrupts what we hold dear, why might God allow that kind of holy disruption when we’re guarding our “fields”? ([09:34])
2. “Joy isn’t something you chase; it’s Someone you receive.” What shifts when joy is received in relationship with Jesus rather than managed by counting or controlling outcomes? ([16:57])
3. If joy begins when Jesus is central, not supplemental, what does it practically mean to make Him the “organizing principle” of a life rather than an add-on? ([20:04])
4. If favor is God’s presence with you, not ease for you, how should that reshape expectations when timing feels late or the assignment feels inconvenient? ([24:02])

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### Application Questions

1. Name your “sheep.” What are you currently guarding for livelihood, identity, or security (money, reputation, routine, relationships)? What is one small, concrete risk of obedience you sense the Lord inviting you to take this week? ([12:28])
2. Where are you chasing joy by managing outcomes or tracking metrics (approval, numbers, dollars, likes)? What would it look like to posture yourself to receive joy each morning this week—choose one simple practice (open-handed prayer, releasing a metric, 5 minutes of silence before your phone)? ([16:57])
3. Re-center your week: looking at your actual calendar, what is one meeting, habit, or plan you will rearrange to put Jesus at the center rather than an add-on? Be specific about the change and when you’ll do it. ([20:04])
4. Overflow to others: who is one person living on “artificial joy” that you can share your Jesus story with? What will you say, and when will you reach out? Put a name and a time. ([21:19])
5. Favor reframed: where does God’s favor not feel fair or on time in your life (family, health, career, timing)? How will you practice trusting His presence over convenience this week—what short prayer of release will you carry into that space? ([24:02])
6. Go back different: identify one “field” you need to return to this week (work, home, a strained relationship). What “new song” of praise or gratitude will you carry into it before anything changes? Write the actual words you’ll say to the Lord when you step back into that field. ([32:41])
7. The Good Shepherd cares: what have you been afraid to leave unattended because it feels too costly? How will you entrust that to the Good Shepherd who knows and cares more than you do? Write one sentence that names the fear and one sentence that names your trust. ([29:26])